



What is a Safari?



When tourists think of a safari they think of luxury, ease, exotic food and game watching. They might rough it a little in a tent but there would be a grass roof over it to keep it cool, with mosquito protection and a tiled bathroom with water on tap, and all mod-cons provided.

However, when we missionaries write about going “on safari,” we mean something very different! We mean battling with deep dust or bogging-down mud, on unbelievably bad roads. It’s not a luxury holiday but basic living, eating local food and having adventures at every turn. So in this book we





Missionary Stories on Safari

invite you to go on safari with us to see what a Kenyan safari, not a tourist one, really is.

The word “safari” is the Kiswahili word for “journey” which can be catching a bus to the next town or walking ten miles to visit your grandmother. These days a safari may be made by plane, train, boat or even bicycle. The rural Kenyans are great walkers – taking a fifteen-mile walk to church on Sunday in their stride. All these are “safaris” and when the traveller arrives he is greeted with, ‘Habari ya safari?’ – How was your journey?

Our “safaris” were made in a variety of vehicles over the years. We became very fond of most of our four-wheeled friends. They were our very necessary fellow-workers, usually reliable, and doing what was required of them.

These safaris often turned into adventures - engine failure fifty miles from the nearest mechanic, or the third puncture when we had only two spare wheels. But the best adventures happened when we arrived at our destination. Instead of hunting animals missionaries hunt people, people who have not heard of Jesus. They go to make friends, to chat and to bring the message of God to their new friends.

So let’s go on safari together, and share our adventures with you!

